

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks made herein. The claims have been amended to address the non-art related rejections.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C 101 as it is alleged to be directed to non-statutory matter. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse.

Applicants submit that claim 12 as amended recites functional descriptive material as it consists of data structures which impart functionality when employed by a computer component. It is well settled that nonfunctional descriptive material, such as music, art, and mere arrangements or compilations of facts or data, are merely stored so as to be read or outputted by a computer without creating any functional interrelationship, either as part of the stored data or as part of the computing processes performed by the computer (see for example, USPTO 2005 Examination Guidelines for Computer-Related Inventions). Amended claim 12 clearly recites data being stored on a computer-readable storage medium, which data imparts function to a computing device. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claim is allowable subject matter under 35 USC §101.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bennett (U.S. Patent No. 7,050,977).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the examiner's reason for rejecting the claims.

Claim 1 recites the limitations of: "wherein a plurality of paths (P) within the data structure (DS) leads at least to part of the service objects (D) and/or nodes (K) and to each node (K) and each service object (D) one or more keywords (S) are assigned, ..." Applicants can find nothing in Bennett that teaches or implies these limitations. Independent claims 11 and 12 recite similar limitations.

The Office Action points to Figs. 6 and 13-17 to show this limitation, and in particular notes that "websites includes keywords." Applicants respectfully disagree. Fig. 6 merely shows a logical structure of tables used in a typical NLQS database 188; and Figs. 13-17 show websites. In Bennett, users traverse several web pages to find the desired content, see col. 35, lines 49-53. Although the websites may use keywords, the Bennett system does not teach that each node (K) and each service object (D) are assigned one or more keywords (S) by the system as in the present invention.

Claim 1 further recites the limitation of "and when a spoken entry of the user is received search words are extracted from this spoken entry and, on the basis of the search words, a number of candidate nodes (K) and/or candidate service objects (D) are sought whose assigned keywords (S) match the search words according to a predefined acceptance criterion..."

The Office Action points col. 24, line 50 to col. 25, line 67 to show this limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree. In this section Bennett teaches a two step algorithm for completing the processing of the speech input signal, recognizing the meaning of the user's query, and retrieving an appropriate answer/response for such query. Bennett teaches recognizing the entire speech input signal and then performing a full-text search. Thus, Bennett does not use assigned keywords relating to each node or service object to match the search words according to a predefined acceptance criterion, as in the present invention.

Since Bennett does not teach all of the limitations of independent claims 1, and 11-12, it can not anticipate the present invention.

For at least the above cited reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 and 11-12 is clearly patentable over Bennett.

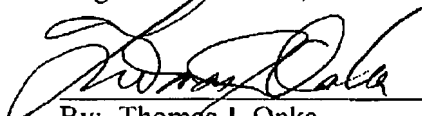
With regard to claims 2-10 these claims depend from an independent claim discussed above, which have been shown to be allowable in view of the cited reference. Accordingly, each of claims 2-10 are also allowable by virtue of its dependence from an allowable base claim.

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For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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